some bilateral issues remain to be resolved.

The Government remain committed to strengthening of cooperative and mutually beneficial relations with Bangladesh. For this purpose, dialogue with the Government of Bangladesh at functional and senior levels, coupled with our endevaouis to expand bilateral trade, particularly with the involvement of the private sector and joint ventures, stepping up of commercial interactions and cultural cooperation countinue.

Indian Companies help to build Iran's Poisonous Gas Complex

2478. SHRI 1NDER KUMAR GUJRAL:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news report captioned 'India aiding Iran's nerve gas units' which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated 31st January, 1995 regarding the help rendered by Indian companies to Iran in building a secret poison gas complex; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report is baseless. The three Indian companies identified in the news report arc involved in a project for the construction of a pesticide plant in Iran. The project was awarded to the Indian companies as a result of an open, international tender in which companies from all over the world participated.

Contribution to ODA by the Developed Countries

2479. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the developed countries, at their recently held Summit-meeting in Copenhagen, have rejected the demand made by India and the other developing nations for a timeframe to contribute 0.7 percent of the Gross Domestic Product to the Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) as reported in 'The Hindustan Times' dated the 10th March, 1995;

(b) whether the rich and the poor countries who met for the first-time to work out ways and means for poverty eradication and full employment, among other social issues, arrived at any consensus on the need of increasing allocation to developing countries at least by 20 percent of ODA;

(c) if so, what are the details of discussions held at Copenhagen Summit and whether Indian delegation felt satisfied at the outcome of the meeting at the UN Summit for Social Development; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The World Summit for Social Development recognized that the implementation of the Declaration and the Programme of action in developing countries, in particular in Africa and the least developed countries, will need additional financial resources and more effective development cooperation and assistance. Though the developed countries did not agree with the suggestion to achieve the target of 0.7% of Gross National Product (GNP) as official development assistance (ODA) by 2000 AD, the summit did agree to strive for the fulfilment of the agreed target as soon as possible, and for increasing the share of funding for social